

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference WHI 200217 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/ 06865	International filing date (day/month/year) 27/06/2003	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 01/07/2002
Applicant WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

2

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/06865

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 F25D23/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F25D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 587 546 A (ELECTROLUX RES & INNOVATION) 16 March 1994 (1994-03-16) cited in the application	1,2,4,5
A	column 3, line 7 - line 20; claim 6; figure 1	7
Y	DE 100 06 878 A (SCHOLZ FLORIAN) 6 September 2001 (2001-09-06)	1,2,4,5
A	column 4, line 20 - column 5, line 54; figures 1,2	7
A	DE 23 65 900 A (SEID MANFRED ING GRAD) 30 September 1976 (1976-09-30) claim 1; figure 1	1,7
A	EP 0 633 420 A (GETTERS SPA) 11 January 1995 (1995-01-11) column 8, line 4 - line 22; figure 2	1,7

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *8* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 October 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

30/10/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Jessen, F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/06865

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0587546	A	16-03-1994	SE 470463 B 18-04-1994
		DE 69305605 D1 28-11-1996	
		DE 69305605 T2 27-03-1997	
		EP 0587546 A1 16-03-1994	
		JP 3391511 B2 31-03-2003	
		JP 6194028 A 15-07-1994	
		SE 9202607 A 11-03-1994	
		US 5361598 A 08-11-1994	
DE 10006878	A	06-09-2001	DE 10006878 A1 06-09-2001
		WO 0161118 A1 23-08-2001	
		EP 1255898 A1 13-11-2002	
		US 2003046894 A1 13-03-2003	
DE 2365900	A	30-09-1976	DE 2365900 A1 30-09-1976
EP 0633420	A	11-01-1995	IT 1264692 B1 04-10-1996
		AT 151157 T 15-04-1997	
		CA 2126815 A1 09-01-1995	
		CN 1103151 A ,B 31-05-1995	
		DE 69309453 D1 07-05-1997	
		DE 69309453 T2 10-07-1997	
		EP 0633420 A2 11-01-1995	
		ES 2101281 T3 01-07-1997	
		JP 7145778 A 06-06-1995	
		RU 2120686 C1 20-10-1998	
		US 5625742 A 29-04-1997	